

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4691
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2007
POPULATION CONTROL
Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the United Nations has recently lauded India's effort towards Population Control;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the United Nations Population Fund has spent several million dollars in India to control population in the past few years;
- (d) if so, whether the results of population control are not convincing inspite of huge spendings; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a)to(d):- United Nations Population Fund(UNFPA) has taken note of the achievements made by the Country on fertility reduction, as stated in the India Country Report, Population and Development: 10 years since International Conference of Population and Develop(ICPD) and other statistics brought out by the Government. UNFPA also agrees that these achievements are as per the Plan of Action agreed at the 1CPD, to which India is a signatory.UNFPA has been assisting the Government of India in their national efforts on Population since 1974 through its five year Country Programmes.. Under the current 6th Country programme for 2003-2007, UNFPA has been techni- cally and financially supporting the efforts of the Government in stabilizing population, through implementation of reproductive and child health programme which focus primarily on addressing unmet need for contraceptives through provisions of quality services along with other reproductive health needs.

(e) Recognizing the importance of health for social and economic development and for improving the quality of life and outreach of quality contraceptive services, the Government of India has launched National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in 2005. Provision of accessible,affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care facilities especially to the poor and vulnerable sections of the population, bridging the gap in rural health care services through creation of a cadre of Accredited Social Health Activities(ASHA), improved hospital care,decentralized planning, intersectoral convergence, maintaining gender balance and ensuring population stabilization constitute the basic features of the NRHM.

The NRHM also includes the second phase of Reproductive and Child Health Programme which intends to improve the performance of family welfare for reducing maternal and infant morbidity and mortality, and unwanted pregnancies. The Programme aims at providing need based, client centred, demand driven, high quality services to the beneficiaries with a view to enhancing the quality of reproductive life of the population enabling the country to achieve the goal and objective envisaged in National Population Policy, 2000.